

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

8b
B1 > 1. An alloy comprising (1) Sn, (2) at least one of Ti and Zr, and (3) at least one of Nb and Ta.

2. The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total percentage of the Ti and Zr in said alloy is from 90 to 74 atom%.

3. The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total percentage of the Nb and Ta in said alloy is from 8 to 20 atom%.

4. The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the percentage of the Sn in said alloy is from 2 to 6 atom%.

5. The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alloy has shape memory characteristics.

6. The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alloy has superelasticity.

7. The alloy as claimed in claim 6, wherein said alloy has superelasticity at the human body temperature.

8. An orthodontic appliance comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

9. An artificial dental implant comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

10. An artificial arthrosis comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

11. A born material comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

